

[Return To 2003 Board Of Health Meeting Minutes](#)

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Board of Health Building on Wednesday, June 25, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. Rob Bond called the meeting to order, Mariano Gianni led the salute to the flag.

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT, NJSA 10:4-1 ET. SEQ. ANNUAL NOTICE HAVING BEEN FORWARDED TO THE NEW JERSEY HERALD, THE SUSSEX COUNTY NEWS LEADER, THE DAILY RECORD AND POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD MAINTAINED IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING FOR PUBLIC NOTICES.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Rob Bond, Dennis Twyford, Mariano Gianni, James Vanderhoof and Melinda Conti. Liaison Estelle Klein was also present.

ABSENT: Catherine Cokelet and Thomas Forbes

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Mariano made a motion to accept the May 28th minutes, seconded by Melinda.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:

1. The group Guardians of Animals was present. Their spokes person, Myra Michlewski, talked about the alleged conditions at our Animal Pound. She also claims that many residents, including local police are still unaware that we have a local pound. Due to that fact, many people go to GOA for assistance. They would like an open house and have the public meet with our new ACO, Dale Sloat. They would like to team with the Health Dept. in bettering our pet population.

Rob asked if any Board members have questions or comments. Dennis asked about the conditions that GOA is referring to at our pound. Sue DeKleine then replied that grass, weeds attract rats and it is an eyesore. Jill Lange, Pound Keeper, keeps it spotless and clean, no doubt about that. A lot of people allegedly called the Health Department, with no assistance. Dennis again asked to give specifics and Sue said there was a person who contacted the department with nineteen cats. Carl had gone and picked up five of them. She said neighbors are calling her to get the rest picked up and put down.

2. Carl said, I take offense to the point that Sue was making as far as not doing anything for these people that complained. First of all no call goes unanswered here. Dale has been here since June 2nd and is doing an admirable job. Between the hiring of Dale and our last employee, I will grant you that. Under no circumstances we didn't try to answer the bell. As far as weeds go, they are going to be cleaned. Jill cleans that pound, we have been inspected by the State and come up above the standard. None of the animals are ever not attended to. When they are sick they are taken to a veterinarian. As far as this individual you are talking about, we went above and beyond to pick up his cats. Also, if someone is coming to you, you need to direct them here. Rosie, Laura and Dale are here and they would tell me if someone is coming in and not getting service by either myself or another. Rob added that it is great that people are going to GOA, but unless they come directly to us, you can't blame us for stuff we don't know about. You need to encourage them strongly, to say the people that have responsibility in this town are the Health Dept, please call them and let Carl know.

Sue said for instance, the cats that they were talking about, the man said five were his and something should have been done about the other cats hanging around his house. It is obvious that they have feline leukemia. They should have been trapped and put down. It is a widespread problem in this town and others. Carl said that person is maintaining that feral cat colony.

Melinda said that as of June 2nd we have an Animal Control Officer that we did not for an extended period of time. Let us see that things progress in the future. I think it is wonderful what all of you are doing. Instead of having the past brought up and put in front of them, let's start with a new Animal Control Officer and move forward in a working relationship, jointly and happily without this past history issue. I do not feel it is fair to bring up things that are three, six, nine, twelve months ago, today.

Carl said as far as the Police Department, I don't understand that. For them not to know that we have an Animal Control Officer and a pound. I will make a point to write a memo to the Acting Police Chief, advising all patrolmen that we do exist and we do have a pound up on Durban Ave. Sue said she called

the Police on a skunk incident and they told her to call Fish and Game. The Police need to be educated that Dale does this. Carl said Dale has been doing call outs.

One of the members asked if once the pound gets cleaned up, can we have an open house, since so many people don't know that there is a pound. Carl said he does not have a problem with that. Rob thanked the members of GOA for coming. Rob asked them to jot down areas that they think need education, and write down ideas for adopting animals and then we can talk about them with Dale. If you can get it here before our next meeting, we can discuss it. Rob then thanked them for coming and then introduced Dale Sloat, Animal Control Officer.

Dale started by saying he has lived in Hopatcong since 1976. He also said the town is going to shape up in time. He came to the Board to ask for a Web Page. This is the time for West Nile/Crows. It would be nice for people to have some place to go to ask questions. I went to the Mayor and he said it would be too difficult. Rob said maybe the Mayor misunderstood Dale because it's not that hard. The Board supports you 110 percent. Dale said we already have a Web Page on Petfinder. It is doing very well. But the people in town don't know about it. Dale also added that he takes pictures of animals for the Web. Rob said on behalf of the Board he would like to welcome Dale, you came with a great resume. Carl then said he received a call from a resident, saying he was very appreciative of what Dale did for him. Carl then passed around a thank you card Dale received from another. Move to next item.

3. Scott DeVito, seeking to install two sealed septic systems at 6&8 Hilltop Rd. Carl started by saying Scott is here to request the Board to endorse an application for a Treatment Works Approval, a sealed system. The history is that it is a summer community, lakefront. Scott would like a permanent house. Since the house had an outhouse and cesspool, he is changing the use of the property. All this being said, Scott's request to apply to the State for a sealed system. A sealed system is a series of tanks with an alarm in it, when it comes to a certain level the alarm would be triggered and they have to pump it. There is no discharge that is why we cannot approve it. Rob then said we endorse the application that goes to Mayor and Council and they do a resolution, not until the BOH endorses it. Carl asked the Board to make a motion to approve the Treatment Works Approval. That will be two sealed systems. Jim made a motion, seconded by Melinda. Roll call, all in favor. Carl said he would send a letter to Lorraine Stark, Borough Clerk to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT:

1. Rob asked about items one and two, Northwood Inn. Carl started by saying he met with the new owner that day. He wants to build a lounge and general store on the lakefront.
2. Rob asked about item number six, the hazardous spills caused by the contractors. They are the result of leaking hydraulic lines or spills from refueling the machines.
3. Rob asked about item number thirteen, ITS person hired under the CDC Bioterrorism Grant to check out computer system to see if it is compatible with the County Lincs System. He seemed to be happy with what we had.
4. Rob asked about the Animal Control Van. Carl said it is on order and will take six to eight weeks.

SANITARY REPORT

1. Rob talked about Poison Ivy. He said there is a tree with tons of Poison Ivy on it, in the middle of town. Carl said he would call Dan Wills on it.

BOROUGH NURSE REPORT:

1. Carl said Fran Baldi had planned on being here tonight, she had a meeting to attend. She plans on attending next month's meeting.

HEALTH EDUCATOR: May

REGISTRAR REPORT

ANIMAL CONTROL: *Hopatcong only*

ALL REPORTS: Jim made a motion to accept all reports, seconded by Mariano.

SWAT: next meeting is September 23, 2003.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Carl started by reading a thank you card for Dale Sloat. The resident was from Stanhope and Dale helped her trap and remove squirrels.

2. Carl read a letter to he had written to Mr. Kukan, Just Inkin Tattoo. Carl said he will talk about this under New Business.
3. Carl had a booklet on Local Laws on Tobacco in New Jersey. He passed it around the table. He also said the new establishment, Parkside Deli is Smoke Free.
4. Carl passed around a copy of Food Talk, a newsletter that was mailed to each and every food establishment in Hopatcong, courtesy of the Hopatcong Health Department.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Carl talked about the Practice Standards for Local Boards of Health. He did not have time to sit down and go over the ten essential items and how do they relate to what we do now. We will do that at our next meeting. Rob said he read the part about every year submitting educational things that Board members have done. There are no requirements in terms of what you need to do. Carl says maybe they will come up with a plan in the near future. They cannot make it too stringent; otherwise they will be losing Board members. It is hard enough for people to come out and do monthly meetings and then ask them to go another four times a year and drive somewhere. They might say I really don't want to do this no more.
2. Rob asked if anyone had a chance to look at the Website for the Health Department. Maybe at our next meeting you can take a look at and see what changes or additions are to be made.
3. There was a brief discussion about the pound, GOA and Dale. Rob then said that if between now and the next meeting if Carl and Dale can talk amongst themselves about how you would like to use the energies of GOA in the best way possible.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. "Just Inkin Tattoo": Carl said the proposed tattoo salon went in front of Zoning. They will be located at the little bait store on the corner of Josie's. The owner came in and gave Carl information that was needed. Tattooing has been regulated in the last couple of years. The State now recognizes that this is something that the Health Dept. should look into. They say you should have an ordinance and a licensing requirement, where you pick up a fee and do the inspections. Carl had a model ordinance. If the Board thinks it is something we should do, we will ship it off to our attorney. Two months after that we can have our own ordinance. Dennis asked if we approve this operation without an ordinance and without a license, will he be grand fathered in? Carl said no. He will be required to get a license.
2. Jim said he was putting cement in a well, in another town, and all that was coming out was oil. There are too many wells in this town that are not sealed. He would like to have an ordinance that requires an abandoned well (not used for two years) to be sealed. Carl said you have people who say I am not really abandoning my well; I keep it to water my lawn. They are just trying to get away with not sealing the well. The well has to be filled for the obvious reasons that Jim said so someone does not inject a volatile in the well. It does not stop at the property line. Carl said if the Board felt the need to pass an ordinance to require anybody that drilled a new well or hook into city water, the well that was not being used, to be sealed in a certain amount of time. Rob said the Board is in agreement that Carl should go forward and put something together to look at. There should be some legitimate agricultural use. We have to determine what that is.

Jim made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mariano. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Rosemarie Mitchell
Recording Secretary

[Return To 2003 Board Of Health Meeting Minutes](#)